



Spotlight on CTE

**Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and
Achievements in Career and Technical Education**

July 2004

Welcome To Our First Issue!

The Office of Career and Technical Preparation thinks it's about time for some fanfare!

CTE students are doing extraordinary things! This newsletter will highlight some of the terrific accomplishments of "our" students around the state, especially those in leadership roles.

The Spotlight will be on Michigan's Career Technical Student Organizations - Business Professionals of America, Michigan DECA, Michigan FFA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Health Occupations Students of America, Skills USA-VICA; and other groups and programs, including but not limited to AYES, FIRST Robotics, LEGO League, DAPCEP, and GRAPCEP.

Tell us about the exciting ways your students are showing leadership, so we can help you publicize your organization! The newsletter will be quarterly – June, September, December, and March. We want to know what you did this summer, too!

Email your articles using the attached form. Articles should come from or through student organization directors only. Submit to: Donna Beltz, Editor, at beltzd@michigan.gov by **April 1, July 1, October 1, or January 1, for each upcoming issue.**

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Michigan Students Excel at International Competition

DECA's 58th Annual International Career Development Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 4, 2004

Michigan DECA students recognized at Grand Awards Session

545 students and advisors from 86 high schools and area career centers in Michigan competed against 13,000 fellow marketing students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and Germany. Students competed both individually and in teams for recognition and over \$250,000 in stock, cash and scholarships.

Dave Wait, Director of Michigan DECA, said "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for students to experience what it's like to work in today's fast-paced world," he added "the scholarships and recognition are a great way of letting them know that the skills they have developed are both useful and significant."

Students had to prove they had what it takes to make it in today's highly competitive corporate world. Some students competed in events that challenged them to work through a real world scenario handled as if they were an already hired marketing professional, and in other events students presented in-depth marketing research projects and promotional plans.

More than 1,500 business professionals representing both domestic and international corporations served as judges in the 38 competitive events.

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DECA Competition *con't*

Greg Varnum, who judged an e-commerce event and is co-owner of Michigan-based Smash Web Design, said

"I was impressed by how professional and knowledgeable the students were. I'll be keeping an eye out for them to be leading tomorrow's business success stories."

While attending the conference, students had the opportunity to further develop their skills by attending leadership academies and workshops. Students were also able to meet with companies about future internship and even career possibilities. Colleges and universities were also present and aggressively recruiting these future industry leaders.

DECA is the only international student organization operating through schools to attract young people to careers in marketing, merchandising, management and entrepreneurship. Its purposes are to teach occupational proficiency, develop student's leadership capabilities, and to promote understanding and appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship in our free, competitive enterprise system.

Michigan DECA Sets A New Record for MDA Challenge

Congratulations to Michigan DECA District V students who have set a new record! They brought 37 high schools together to fight for one cause – to give children with muscular dystrophy a second chance – and raised a grand total of **\$95,209** to do just that!

The money will be used to fund research to find cures for the neuromuscular disease and also to send kids to summer camps. At summer camps, people 5-21 years old with muscular dystrophy will have the opportunity to enjoy many activities that seem common to us, but are nearly impossible to them without trained volunteer help – things like swimming, hockey, baseball, soccer, football, boating, horseback riding, fishing, music, cooking, arts and crafts, movies, dancing, talent shows.

Once again, DECA students rise to the challenge and make us proud. Contact www.mideca.org for more information on DECA.

Mach Vee Team at FIRST Robotics

FIRST: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology

The Great Lakes Regional FIRST Competition was held at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center in Ypsilanti, Michigan on March 12 and 13, 2004.

The Mach Vee Team 240 finished 13th out of a field of 60 during the qualifying rounds, with a record of 5-2-0. During the quarterfinals, the alliance team included the team from Bedford High School and a team from Toledo. They beat the number one seeded team's alliance in two straight matches and advanced to the semi-finals.

Mach Vee then competed against teams from 48 states and Canada at the 2004 National FIRST Robotics Competition Championship at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on April 15-17. Although the Monroe Team didn't advance through the qualifying rounds, they did log the highest score in their division during one of the six matches.



The Mach Vee Team #240 team is made up of students from Jefferson, Monroe, and Saint Mary's Catholic Central High Schools, and enjoys the opportunity to work under mentors from Visteon and DTE. Official sponsors include UAW, Visteon, Lewellyn, DTE, IBEW, TextileLeather, Family First and parents of the students wherever and whenever needed.

The Visteon Corp. has contributed well over \$9,000.00 annually in direct support of team "Mach Vee". More importantly, volunteer engineers and technicians who are tops in their various fields of expertise have donated over 1300 hours yearly. Their direct support of the team provides the guidance, leadership, and the mentoring required for their continued success.

Log on to www.usfirst.org for more information on F.I.R.S.T and the robotics competition, and visit the team homepage link, (Mach Vee Team #240).



Student Spotlight

Braidie Butters, a 2004 graduate of Homer High School, became an active member of the Homer FFA Chapter as a seventh grader. Because of the career and technical preparation that she has gained from her FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) in veterinary placement, Braidie desires to one day become a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Growing up on her family's farm, Braidie quickly developed an interest in large animals, both cattle and horses. "I can remember when I was five years old first watching the local veterinarian, Dr. James Irving, visit our farm to dehorn, castrate and vaccinate my grandpa's calves," said Braidie. "From that time on, I always helped my dad and grandpa check on the cattle and treat the sick animals by holding the syringes and bottles of medicine."

Braidie's grandpa always took her with him when he visited the veterinary clinic. On these trips, Braidie observed the clinic's activities and was fascinated. When she was 12 years old, she started volunteering at Oakdale Large Animal Clinic located in Homer, Michigan, doing such things as cleaning stalls, restocking the refrigerator with refreshments and making sure the clinic was clean and presentable. Her tasks were limited due to legalities. However, this did not deter Braidie from gaining as much experience as possible, and she worked more than 1,500 unpaid hours prior to entering high school.

While Braidie was volunteering, Dr. Irving allowed her to monitor many surgical procedures and travel to farms with the doctors to observe farm calls. In 2001, Braidie was hired as a paid employee of the clinic staff and has been working there since during the school year and summer.

Over the years, Braidie has gained much knowledge and experience that has allowed her to perform duties that a licensed technician often performs. Currently, Braidie completes technical activities including blood analyses, radiology, phlebotomy, shockwave therapy, medicating animals and record keeping.

"Braidie shows the maturity, self-discipline, work ethic, and personality to succeed in any field, including veterinary medicine, that she would choose for a career," stated Dr. Irving. "I would endorse Braidie for any position where a vibrant personality, intelligence, speaking ability and problem solving skills are necessities."

In the fall, Braidie plans to attend Jackson Community College (JCC) to complete basic classes before transferring to Michigan State University (MSU). While at JCC, Braidie will continue to work with Dr. Irving to learn more about veterinary medicine and raise money to finance her college education. At MSU, she will major in animal science and eventually apply to the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Braidie plans to become a doctor of veterinary medicine and one day opening her own large animal clinic. We have no doubt she will!

SkillsUSA Champions!

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving a quarter-million high school and college students and professional members who are enrolled in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations.

Michigan SkillsUSA members were among 14,000 who attended the 40th National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Missouri on June 19-24, one of their biggest conferences ever. The SkillsUSA Championships contest floor space alone took up the equivalent of nearly 11 football fields! There were 400 more competitors this year than last.

Before students even make it to the SkillsUSA Championships, they are involved in over 10,000 competitions at the local, district, and state competition levels. They exemplify the new slogan for SkillsUSA – "Champions" at Work".

BPA Students Rock and Kick to Success in Cincinnati

"Today's students, Tomorrow's business professionals" – BPA motto

Cincinnati, Ohio, was the "hopping" location for this year's **38th Annual Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference**.

Michigan had an extremely strong showing, with 464 delegates in attendance. The National Center offered tours, social activities, learning sessions, a leadership academy, and even a soccer shootout, "Rat" race, Velcro Wall and Bungee Run. Keynote speaker was Fran Kick, who "rocked" the conference with a powerful "Kick It In" presentation.

Michigan delegates brought home the awards:

86 Secondary Division national finalists, 33 of which were in the top 3
24 Postsecondary national finalists, 17 of which were in the top 3

Congratulations, delegates! It's easy to see, Michigan BPA rocks - even in Cincinnati!

Contact Maurice Henderson, State BPA director, at www.michiganbpa.org for more information.

Local HOSA Chapter Recognized for Outstanding Community Service

The Wexford Missaukee Area Career Tech Center Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Chapter was recently recognized for demonstrating excellence as part of a statewide service-learning project on hunger. Michigan HOSA presented the WMA HOSA chapter with a \$500 award for collect the most food and raising the most money.

Members of Michigan HOSA, a student--led organization committed to developing the professional and practical skills of students in health occupation classes across Michigan, partnered with local hospitals to help the Michigan Harvest Gathering. More than 30 HOSA chapters across the state participated by collecting food and raising money for Michigan hunger shelters and food banks.

The Michigan Harvest Gathering was part two in a three-part series for students who are utilizing a professional development tool named 360 Degrees. Through the 360 Degree Program, participants were encouraged to "Learn it, Live it and Lead it" by educating themselves about hunger, volunteering with related agencies/activities and sharing their experience with others in their community.

Wexford Missaukee Area Career Tech Center students joined forces with Mercy Hospital employees in Cadillac. Their combined efforts resulted in more than 4,800 pounds of food and more than \$2,000. HOSA students helped by planning food drives at four local schools in the Cadillac community. Students also organized a "Penny War" among classes in their school. Students added creativity to the project by executing a community "Empty Bowls" fundraiser, where HOSA members spent a week painting bowls with hunger information. Each bowl was sold for a flat fee and patrons enjoyed soup and bread while learning about the issues of hunger from facts that the students shared throughout the event.

Julie Herringa, a student from Wexford-Missaukee HOSA Chapter said, "Learning about hunger changed my view of who is hungry and why. It made me think that I could be there one day. I really think this was an excellent choice for a project. I feel like we can make a real difference."

Michigan HOSA was also recognized by Wright & Philipppis, a rehabilitative healthcare organization, for innovative approaches to the professional development of students interested in health care careers, and awarded \$1,000 to HOSA as well as \$500 to two students from Wexford-Missaukee HOSA.

VOTE

"Name This Newsletter" suggestions are:

- * Focus, Focused on CTE
- * The Leader, CTE Students Leading the Way
- * Pathfinder, CTE Michigan Pathways at Work
- * The Window, CTE at Glance
- * CTEscope
- * CTE Connections

We have also had a request to not name it with the following words in the title – in common use:

- * Spotlight
- * Creed
- * News
- * Notes
- * Heartbeat
- * Focus

Several entries said don't change it – we like it!

Vote for 1st and 2nd choice by e-mailing editor Donna Beltz at beltzd@michigan.gov by September 1. Thank you!

